BOTANICAL MUSEUM LEAFLETS
SPRING 1983

VOL. 29, NO. 2

DE PLANTIS TOXICARIIS E MUNDO NOVO TROPICALE COMMENTATIONES XXXI

FURTHER ETHNOPHARMACOLOGICAL NOTES ON MALPIGHIACEOUS PLANTS OF THE NORTHWESTERN AMAZON

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A number of years ago, I published an article entitled "Notes on toxic or medicinal malpighiaceous species of the Amazon" in Bot. Mus. Leafl., Harvard Univ. 24 (1975) 121–131. These notes were based on collections identified by Dr. José Cuatrecasas of the Smithsonian Institution—identifications published in his monograph of the Malpighiaceae of Colombia in Webbia 13 (1958) 343–664.

During the ensuing eight years, additional collections of this family have been distributed and identified. At present, a total of 112 of my numbers have been determined by Dr. William R. Anderson of the University of Michigan—a much more extensive selection than was available to Dr. Cuatrecasas. These identifications have been published in his "The Botany of the Guiana Highlands—Part XI Malpighiaceae" in Mem. N.Y. Bot Gard. 32 (1981) 21–305.

It is now possible to offer additional notes on the uses of malpighiaceous plants of medicinal or toxicological nature by Indians in the northwest Amazon. Only occasionally have name changes been made. Thus, in great part, there is little need to alter the citation of the notes which I published earlier.

My deepest appreciation goes to Dr. Anderson for the care and interest which he has shown in studying my malpighiaceous collections. The ethnopharmacological observations are the result of my field research in the Colombian Amazonia from 1941 through 1954.

The genera and species are arranged alphabetically. The specimens cited are deposited for the most part in the Gray Herbarium

or the Economic Herbarium of Oakes Ames at Harvard University or in the Herbario Nacional Colombiano in Bogotá, Colombia.

Burdachia Duckei *Steyermark* in Fieldiana Bot. 28 (1952) 282.

BRAZIL: Estado do Amazonas, Rio Negro, Ilha Gavião, near mouth of Rio Branco. July 7, 1967. *Schultes 24531.*

This plant is believed to be toxic by the natives of the region where the collection was made.

There is, however, no chemical indication of the presence in the genus of a toxic constituent.

Burdachia prismatocarpa *Adr. Jussieu* var. **loretoensis** *Anderson* in Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 32 (1981) 143.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Amazonas, Río Loretoyacu. October, 1946. *Schultes et Black 8400.*

The Tikuna Indians formerly employed the bank of this plant in preparing an emetic drink for use by chronic sufferers of stomach pains.

Byrsonima arthropoda *Adr. Jussieu* in Ann. Sci. Nat., ser. 2, 13 (1840) 335.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Vaupés, Río Apaporis, Soratama. June 15, 1951. *Schultes et Cabrera 12562.*—Jinogojé. *Schultes et Cabrera 19815.* Comisaría del Amazonas, Río Amazonas, Leticia. *Schultes et López 10400.*

The bark of *Byrsonima arthropoda* is crushed, soaked in warm water and poulticed on deep cuts to hasten healing amongst the Makuna Indians of the Río Piraparaná.

It is of interest that natives in British Guiana are reported to use the inner bark of *Byrsonima crassifolia* (L.) HBK. for a similar purpose (*A.C. Smith 3344*).

Byrsonima japurensis *Adr. Jussieu* in Ann. Sci. Nat., ser. 2, 13 (1840) 335.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Vaupés, Río Apaporis, Raudal Yayacopi. February 1952. *Schultes et Cabrera 15507.*—Jinogojé. *Schultes et Cabrera 16594.*

The Makuna Indians value *Byrsonima japurensis* in the form of a tea as a strong vermifuge.

Diacidia galphimioides *Grisebach* in Martius, Fl. Bras. 12, pt. 1 (1858) 120.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Vaupés, Río Kuduyarí, Cerro Yapobodá. "Low bush, 1-2 feet tall. Flowers yellow." October 5-6, 1951. *Schultes et Cabrera 14355*.—Same locality. April 1953. *Schultes et Cabrera 20049*.—Río Karurú, Mesa de Yambí, Savannah Goo-ran-hoo-dá. "Bush. Flowers bright yellow." April 15-16, 1953. *Schultes et Cabrera 19170*.—Río Vaupés, between Mitú and Javareté, Cerro de Tipiaca. "Low bush. Flowers yellow." May 14-24, 1953. *Schultes et Cabrera 19314*.

A tea of this plant is said to be strongly astringent and to be used by the Kubeo Indians as a remedy for colds and bronchial conditions in which the throat is affected.

Diacidia parvifolia *Cuatrecasas* in Webbia 13 (1958) 632.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Vaupés, Río Kuduyarí, Cerro Yapobodá. *Schultes et Cabrera 14355*.—Río Kubiyú, Cerro Kañendá. "Flowers yellow." November 10, 1952. *Schultes et Cabrera 18307*.

The leaves of this small shrub are collected by the Kubeo Indians of the Río Kuduyarí, dried and pulverized and worn in pockets in the belief that they ward off snakes.

Heteropterys sp.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Putumayo, Río Putumayo, Puerto Ospina. "Extensive liana along river's edge. Said to be very toxic; not employed." July 5-8, 1942. *Schultes 4029*.

The common name of this liana in the upper Putumayo area is *mataperro* ("dog killer"), indicative of its extreme toxicity. The plant is, however, apparently not utilized.

Heteropterys acutifolia *Jussieu* in Arch. Mus. Paris 3 (1843) 459.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Vaupés, Río Apaporis, Raudal de Jirijirimo. "Small tree. Flowers yellow." March 15, 1952. *Schultes et Cabrera 15944*.—Comisaría del Amazonas, Río Miritiparaná, Caño Guacayá. "Vine. Wings of fruit pinkish." April 24, 1952. *Schultes et Cabrera 16248*.

The Makuna name for this plant is *wj́-ka-hee-ma*.

Heteropterys macradena (*DC.*) *Anderson* in Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 32 (1981) 202.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Vaupés, Río Vaupés, Miraflores. April 20, 1943. *Schultes 5371.*

A tea of the leaves of this species is valued amongst the Indians of the Río Vaupés to reduce "blood in the stool."

Heteropterys nervosa *Adr. Jussieu ex St. Hilaire*, Fl. Bras. Merid. 3 (1832) 26.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Vaupés, Río Apaporis, Soratama. August, 1951. *Schultes et Cabrera 13770.*

Indians living in the Río Kananarí bathe the feet with a hot decoction of the bark of this liana to help heal cracks in the thick skin that are chronically infected. The Taiwano name is *mateé-na-ne.*

Heteropterys olivacea (*Cuatr.*) *Anderson* in Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 32 (1981) 178.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Vaupés, Río Apaporis, Raudal de Jerijirimo. November 25, 1951. *Schultes et Cabrera 14591.*

The Taiwanos of the Río Kananarí make a solution of the leaves of *Heteropterys olivacea* soaked in an oil (possibly of *Jessenia Bataua*) to "cure" deafness by repeatedly dropping it into the ears.

Heteropterys siderosa *Cuatrecasas* in Webbia 13 (1958) 476.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Vaupés, confluence of Ríos Ajaju and Macaya (Puerto Hevea). July 23,1943. *Schultes 5646.*

The Karijona Indians of the uppermost Río Vaupés believe that the crushed leaves of *Heteropterys siderosa* rubbed vigorously on painful joints will reduce inflammation.

Lophanthera pendula *Ducke* in Trop. Woods 50 (1937) 34.

BRAZIL: Estado do Amazonas, Río Negro, São Felipe and vicinity. January 8, 1948. *Schultes et López 9600.*

The leaves of this small shrub in tea form are considered to be a strong diuretic by the Brazilian inhabitants of the upper Río Negro where the vernacular name of the plant is *muruci*.

An alkaloid—lophantherine—has been reported from *Lophanthera latescens* Ducke, but its structure is still unknown (Hegnauer: *Chemotaxonomie der Pflanzen* 5 (1969) 25).

Mascagnia Benthamiana (*Griseb.*) *Anderson* in Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 32 (1981) 217.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Amazonas, Río Karaparaná, entre las bocas y El Encanto. May 22-28, 2943. *Schultes 3827a.*

The Witoto Indians give a drink prepared from the samaras of *Mascagnia Benthamiana* to stimulate the appetite following serious malaria.

This is the first collection of *Mascangia Benthamiana* from Colombia, and the locality is far to the west of the general range of the species.

Mascagnia castenea (*Cuatr.*) *Anderson* in Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 32 (1981) 218.

BRAZIL: Estado do Amazonas, Rio Negro basin, Rio Dimití, at base of Cerro Dimití. May 12-19, 1948. *Schultes et López 10014.*

Natives living along the uppermost Río Negro consider the bark of this liana toxic and assert that it was formerly employed with other plant ingredients in preparing curare.

This plant, first described as a species of Heteropterys, has been known hitherto only from the type collection.

Tetrapteris styloptera *Jussieu* in Ann. Sci. Nat., ser. 2, Bot. 13 (1840) 262.

COLOMBIA: Comisaría del Amazonas, Río Miritiparaná, Caño Guacayá. "Flowers yellow. Vine." March 2-8, 1952. *Schultes et Cabrera 15784.*

The Tanimukas, who call this vine *weé-po-awk*, employ the bark in powdered form as a styptic.